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POLITICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
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CONTENTS

PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Briefs

Conference of Bloc States Editors 1

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

'L'UNITA' Roundup on "Prague Spring" Anniversary
(L'UNITA, various dates) 2

CSSR, USSR Articles Defend '68 Intervention
'Clarified Eurocommunist Ideas', by Guiseppe Boffa
Italian Labor Groups' Joint View
'PRAVDA' Believes Action 'Correct'

Briefs

Costa Rica's Envoy Arrives 9
CSSR-Panamanian Cultural Agreement 9
Bavarian Bundestag Deputies Depart 9
FRG Delegation Meets CSSR Germans 9
School Attendance in Slovakia 9
Cuban Party Delegation 10

EAST GERMANY

Authorities Urged to Pay More Attention to Citizen Concerns
(Various sources, various dates) 11

West German Commentary
Greater Efficiency Needed in Government, by
Heidrun Pohl, Gerhard Schulze

HUNGARY

Briefs

New Military Radio 22

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
POLAND	
Naval Air Force Wartime Role Discussed (SKRYDLATA POLSKA, 20 Aug 78)	23
Briefs	
Naval Improvements	24
ROMANIA	
'SCINTEIA' Comments on Creation of United Romanian State (AGERPRES, 13 Sep 78)	25
Distortions of Romanian History by Western Socialist Historians (Al Gh Savu Interview; VIATA MILITARA, Aug 78)	27
Amended Decree on Fire Prevention Published (BULETINUL OFICIAL, 2 Aug 78)	30

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

CONFERENCE OF BLOC STATES EDITORS--The editors-in-chief of the periodicals dealing with party life of the central committees of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Czechoslovak Communist Party, the Cuban Communist Party, the Polish United Workers' Party, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the German Socialist Unity Party, the Romanian Communist Party, the Soviet Union's Communist Party and of the Vietnamese Communist Party (?held a) conference in Hungary between September 18-21 at the invitation of the HSWP CC. The discussions covered topical issues of the periodicals' work. Present at the conference was the representative of the editing office of the periodical peace and socialism. Karoly Nemeth, member of the HSWP political committee and secretary of the Central Committee, received the editors-in-chief of the sister parties' periodicals. [Budapest MTI in English 1730 GMT 21 Sep 78 LD]

CSO: 2500

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

'L'UNITA' ROUNDUP ON 'PRAGUE SPRING' ANNIVERSARY

CSSR, USSR Articles Defend '68 Intervention

Milan L'UNITA in Italian 18 Aug 78 p 11 LD

[Unattributed report: "Two Articles Defending the '68 Intervention"]

[Text] Two articles stand out in the controversy which is inevitably being rekindled 10 years after the Warsaw Pact military intervention which ended the "new course" experiment in Czechoslovakia. The first, signed by I. Medvedev, was transmitted by the Soviet press agency NOVOSTI; the second, by Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee Secretary Jan Fojtik, was published in the CPSU organ PRAVDA.

The Czechoslovak leader concentrates his criticisms in particular in a direction which the author clearly intends as an attack on opinions and positions formulated and upheld too by the PCI. Fojtik writes: "Our achievements also disprove the claims of those who strive vainly to demonstrate from Czechoslovakia's example the false obsolescence of Leninism in general, or at least its historical and geographical limits." These people, whose platform has been hastily rechristened Eurocommunism by bourgeois ideologists--according to Fojtik--avoid "all contact with Czechoslovak reality" and limit their own sources of information" to the dispatches of bourgeois press agencies which exalt the grumblings of a few discontented dissidents." Fojtik's charges continue in a particularly harsh and bitter tone as he asserts that "these people encourage blatant disorientation of the masses and western revolutionary and progressive forces." Fojtik accuses them of propagating slander whose purpose is to compromise the revolutionary path, the path of Leninism, in the eyes of the working class and all western workers, to terrorize broad sections of the population, to compel them to oppose this path, and to provoke hostile sentiments toward our people." [Quote marks as published]

"These attacks," Fojtik continues, "galvanize the destructive activity of hostile elements which," he says, "claim to play the role of an internationally recognized political force in our country." Fojtik naturally concludes that "thanks to internationalist help in 1968 (read: the military

intervention by the Warsaw Pact countries) we managed to avoid the worst: the liquidation of the socialist regime in Czechoslovakia through the work of groveling counterrevolutionary forces allied to foreign reactionaries", and reiterates that the intervention 10 years ago "was reconfirmation of the true friendship and true internationalism."

For his part, the Soviet journalist from NOVOSTI directs his attack mainly against those who "still express their disappointment at the vanished opportunities" to "improve socialism" in that country. In his opinion, on the contrary, they are merely "grieved by the failure of attempts to restore the capitalist system in Czechoslovakia, and consequently detach this state from the socialist community."

Medvedev gives a brief history in his own fashion of the events of those days 10 years ago, reaffirming that a "counterrevolutionary situation" had arisen in Czechoslovakia at the time, and that therefore "we were faced with the full force of the problem of rejecting counterrevolution and defending the socialist cause, thus strengthening the socialist front in Europe."

According to Medvedev, "the rightwing forces within the Czechoslovak party leadership took no steps to unmask the counterrevolution and prevent civil war"; he further maintains that within the country "there were not enough forces available to defeat the counterrevolution, and so entire groups of workers, Central Committee members and deputies appealed to the leadership bodies of other socialist countries, begging them to help the Czechoslovak people to defend their social gains." Thanks to this "internationalist action"--Medvedev stresses--"the necessary conditions were created to overcome the crisis in the country by political means."

Medvedev also maintains that the new ruling group, led by Husak, has succeeded in creating a "situation of normality" by appealing to "the will and support of the healthy energies of the party and the workers", and he concludes that "Czechoslovakia, which is an inseparable part of the powerful socialist community, now occupies a firm active position in the international arena."

'Clarified Eurocommunist Ideas'

Rome L'UNITA in Italian 20 Aug 78 p 1 LD

[Guiseppe Boffa article: "Czechoslovakia: The Weight of the Past 10 Years"]

[Text] At the recent Gramsci Institute seminar on the 1968 political change in Czechoslovakia [PCI Secretariat member] Comrade Gian Carlo Pajetta told how, at the PCI Directorate meeting in May that year which approved the initiative of a visit by Comrade Longo to Prague as a demonstration of solidarity with the new Czechoslovak communist leaders, Longo himself said he believed it necessary to underline the fact that the decision taken at that moment was one of those from which "there is no turning back." The

episode confirms that, even then, there was in our party an awareness of making a very important decision--a decision which implied a positive verdict on the path adopted by the Czechoslovak comrades, and the need to help them freely follow their path. The resolute condemnation of the military intervention exactly 10 years ago, through which the USSR and other Warsaw Pact countries interrupted the "new course" which had appeared in Prague, was a logical consequence of that decision.

Unlike what has happened at various times in other East European countries, in Czechoslovakia in 1968 there was no sudden and lacerating break. The new course, with Dubcek as its foremost exponent, was rather the result of long preparation. For numerous oft-repeated historical reasons, Czechoslovakia had suffered more than any other country from the cold war, from the consequent split down Europe, and from the importation of Stalinist methods. For the same reasons, the effects had perhaps been slower to appear, but were also more serious and more prolonged. Precisely because the Czechoslovak Communist Party had nonetheless remained a great party, strengthened by its very complex history and effective links with the peoples' masses, there had developed within it a strong trend toward the quest for a new and independent view of socialist society, profoundly different from the Soviet example, but not hostile toward the USSR.

The Czechoslovak events of 1968 never strayed outside the socialist framework. They revealed a conscious effort to breathe life into an alternative socialist society to the Stalinist kind. Many of those among the rightwing forces, who even now talk about it enthusiastically, in fact only became supporters of that attempt on 21 August; previously, while it was under way, they had followed its evolution very reticently, if not with hostility. Of course, the change was too major a one for it to take place without jolts; the months from January through August 1968 were marked by a continuous succession of political clashes. No major battle can take place in any other way. Those troubles proved the vast extent and the serious nature of the process. It dealt with essential problems in building a socialist society in an industrially advanced country with deep-rooted democratic customs--problems of management and planning a very diversified economy, relations between the state and far-reaching cultural activity with great traditions, the independent organization of the masses in their corporate life, and the manifestations and forms of an irrepressible political pluralism.

The extent of that process was demonstrated on 21 August, when not even the foreign intervention succeeded in suppressing it. The remarkable unanimous--though controlled--response from the people demanded the return to Prague of the leaders who had been seized and taken to Moscow. Some of the more interesting speeches at the aforementioned Gramsci Institute seminar explained how even after August, despite the compromises imposed by the military occupation, some of the most significant trends of the Czechoslovak new course were clarified--in particular, those implying a more direct involvement of the working class, broad sectors of which had in the foregoing months remained rather on the sidelines. Indeed, it took a second instance of heavy outside pressure in March 1969 to put an end to those promising trends.

The most eloquent proof of the legitimacy and fruitfulness of the course undertaken by the Czechoslovak communists in 1968 finally lies in what happened during the subsequent decade. None of the problems which came to light at that time has really been resolved. The crisis created by the intervention has not ended. There has been no national reconciliation, and in fact there have not even been any initiatives in that direction. Our condemnation of the intervention and of the policy which stemmed from it has remained unchanged throughout this period not only because of our commitment to consistency, but also because the very facts throughout the occupation have confirmed to us that we were not mistaken in 1968, and convince us that Czechoslovakia needs independence and autonomy to resolve its problems. We knew--and unfortunately we were not mistaken--that the actions which we deplored would lead into a blind alley. Czechoslovakia is still an open wound in Europe.

The intervention had negative consequences not only for Czechoslovakia, but also for the countries which implemented it. Indeed, it was also a symptom of a regressive process with respect to the stances--anything but straightforward, of course, but nonetheless important--which first took corporate shape at the 20th CPSU Congress. The need for a new relationship between socialism and democracy was indeed not exclusive to Czechoslovakia. To have failed to meet it was also for the USSR and other Eastern Bloc states a decision which is still affecting their political life, as too many recent events have reminded us.

In 1968, we were not the only ones in the communist movement to condemn the intervention. Almost all the West European parties did the same. Most of them--in particular the ones strengthened by a large following--in turn later found in subsequent events good reason to confirm their verdict. In fact the Czechoslovak experience has become for everyone a stimulus to deeper reflection on the limitations of the historical path so far covered by the countries which have transcended the capitalist forms of organizing society. The phenomenon which later came to be called "Eurocommunism" of course has--at least as far as we are concerned--more distant roots: our stance in 1968 had been prepared for by the path which we had pursued before. And yet, because of the unanimity of verdicts which occurred at that time among the parties, the Czechoslovak events of 1968 constitute a very important element in the clarification of Eurocommunist ideas. They also mark a stage in our history as Italian communists.

We have been led to reassert not only that in our countries the connection between socialism and democracy is indissoluble; we have stressed that for us, as Comrade Berlinguer pointed out again recently, it has a universal and permanent value. This was also the point of departure for the 1968 Czechoslovak experience; its significance cannot therefore be transitory.

Italian Labor Groups' Joint View

Rome L'UNITA in Italian 20 Aug 78 p 14 LD

[Apparent text of "Italian General Confederation of Labor-Italian Confederation of Labor Unions-Italian Union of Labor (CGIL-CISL-UIL) declaration on Prague events"--first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] Rome--On the 10th anniversary of the Warsaw Pact troops' intervention in Czechoslovakia, the CGIL-CISL-UIL Federation has released the following declaration:

It is 10 years since the Warsaw Pact countries, apart from Romania, forcibly put an end to the process of political, social, and economic renewal which was taking place in Czechoslovakia.

The reaction of the Italian trade union movement was then and still is one of harsh condemnation.

The democratization of political life, the development of the participation of the workers and of their trade union representatives at all levels, the re-establishment of individual freedoms, and the reflowering of the pluralism of ideas, still within the existing economic and social system in Czechoslovakia, constituted a living and original experiment which could have--had it not been ended by force of arms--had a significance and implications ranging far beyond the borders within which it took place. Not without reason did the entire international workers movement witness the Prague Spring with a deep sense of involvement and great political interest.

The angry protest against the repression of that attempt, and the values which it represented should have constituted food for thought for and a solemn warning to the Czechoslovak trade union and political leaders, just as it formed a point of reference and reflection for the entire international workers and trade union movement. The CGIL-CISL-UIL Federation therefore considers it extremely grave that the political and trade union leaders who succeeded those legitimately chosen by the Czechoslovak people and workers in spring 1968 took no heed of it, and that on the contrary a harsh repression has struck and is still striking attempts by intellectuals, ordinary citizens, and workers to assert freedoms provided for not only by the Czechoslovak constitution itself, but also by the accords solemnly ratified in Helsinki. Furthermore, the rights gained by the workers through the establishment of workers' councils and the democratization of the trade unions are being systematically disregarded, and many workers have lost their jobs for having upheld them.

The CGIL-CISL-UIL Federation therefore confirms on this occasion its commitment to upholding in all national and international forums the universal principles of freedom, democracy, and the workers' participation in the leadership of society, which also inspired the Czechoslovak Spring, and specifically to upholding their observance in Czechoslovakia and every other country where they are denied or limited.

This commitment is addressed primarily to the Czechoslovak workers to whom the Italian workers are bound by their shared involvement in the struggle against Nazi-fascism, for freedom and democracy in Europe, and by profound class solidarity.

The CGIL-CISL-UIL Federation declares its solidarity with the workers hit by repressive measures because of their ideas in Czechoslovakia and resolves to take suitable initiatives in the weeks ahead to spread information among the workers, and to strengthen its solidarity in accordance with the internationalist principles which inspire its activity.

'PRAVDA' Believes Action 'Correct'

Rome L'UNITA in Italian 20 Aug 78 p 14 LD

[Unattributed report: "PRAVDA Believes Intervention in Czechoslovakia was 'Correct'"]

[Text] The Soviet press (PRAVDA with an editorial, the NOVOSTI agency with a commentary transmitted to the Italian newspapers, and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA with a signed article by Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee member Pavel Auersperg) returned yesterday to the 1968 Czechoslovak events to comment, on the one hand, on what is described as "the West's campaign of lies against Czechoslovakia," and to reaffirm, on the other, that Prague was confronted 10 years ago with a "counterrevolutionary" attempt, and that the Warsaw Pact's military intervention was therefore "necessary and correct."

PRAVDA writes, among other things, that "imperialist propaganda is seeking in every way to eliminate the workers' gains," and maintains that "the organizers of the current acts of ideological sabotage are disregarding the fact that their actions are at complete variance with the Helsinki final act," since, according to PRAVDA, "such initiatives" are aimed "at recreating an atmosphere of confrontation, causing peoples to become estranged, and thwarting mankind's hopes of averting further wars."

For his part, Czechoslovak leader Auersperg asserts that the 1968 events have become "a clear instance of the fact that rightwing revisionism, which is characterized by a specific nationalist and petty bourgeois ideology, paves the way for counterrevolution." Therefore, the "internationalist aid" given to the Czechoslovak people in August 1968 "halted counterrevolution's onslaught."

The same issue is dealt with by the Soviet NOVOSTI agency journalist, specifically to justify the need for the military intervention. NOVOSTI states that: "The defense of socialism constitutes an internationalist duty for communists" and that "in the situation which had been created, the entry of the Warsaw Pact allies' troops into Czechoslovakia was a necessary act of international solidarity." This assertion provides the Italian Christian Democratic Party organ IL POPOLO with the starting point

for a commentary which states, among other things: "The warning is worrying because it describes the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia not as an exception, however unfortunate, but as the implementation of a principle of Soviet strategy." "We therefore ask NOVOSTI," IL POPOLO continues, "whether it intended to make it understood through its article that similar treatment would be in store for those communists who, having attained power, sought to achieve socialism in their own way in their own countries." The Chinese NCNA also speaks out on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the intervention in Czechoslovakia, on the one hand, to criticize the Czechoslovak leaders at that time, who, in its opinion, should have resisted the "new czars'" intervention with weapons in their hands, and, on the other, to warn the United States and the West European countries against continuing to pursue what, in Peking's opinion, is a policy of appeasement toward the USSR.

CSO: 3104

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BRIEFS

COSTA RICA'S ENVOY ARRIVES--Special envoy Jose Joaquin Chaverri Sievert, director of the Costa Rica foreign ministry's information department, arrived in Prague on 3 September at the invitation of CSSR Foreign Minister B. Chnoupek. [Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 4 Sep 78 p 2 AU]

CSSR-PANAMANIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT--On the basis of a cultural agreement concluded in Panama last year, the first cultural cooperation plan between the CSSR Government and the Government of the Republic of Panama, valid until the end of 1981, has been signed in Prague. The plan determines the extent of relations in the sphere of culture, films, science, education, the mass media and youth. The cultural cooperation plan was signed for the Czechoslovak side by K. Komarek, head of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs' department of culture, and for the Panamanian side by P.B. Martinez, ambassador [entrusted] with special mission. [Text] [Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 4 Sep 78 p 2 AU]

BAVARIAN BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES DEPART--The delegation of deputies of the Bavarian Social Democratic Party of Germany Land Group in the Lower House left Prague today to return to the German Federal Republic. The delegation, headed by Dr Alfons Bayerl, chairman of the Land Group, was in Czechoslovakia for a 3-day visit at the invitation of Evzen Erban, chairman of the Czech National Council. [Text] [Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1130 GMT 10 Sep 78 LD]

FRG DELEGATION MEETS CSSR GERMANS--The group of Bavarian SPD deputies visiting the CSSR met in Karlovy Vary on 9 September with Czechoslovak citizens of the German nationality living in the Karlovy Vary, Cheb and Sokolov districts. On 10 September the delegation returned from Prague to the FRG. [Prague PRACE in Czech 11 Sep 78 p 2 AU]

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN SLOVAKIA--In the school year 1978-79, more than 18,000 children will attend kindergartens in Slovakia; 80,000 will attend the first grade of elementary school; 60,500 pupils-apprentices will attend 115 secondary professional schools; more than 69,200 will attend 115 professional schools, 47 apprentices schools, 399 apprentices centers, 140 secondary schools for working people and 33 centers of practical instruction. [Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 5 Sep pp 1,2 AU]

CUBAN PARTY DELEGATION--A study delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, formed by Raimundo Espinosa, deputy head of the Science, Culture and Education Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Andres Peres Leon [name as published], head of the Science, Culture and Education Department of the Villa Clara Provincial Committee, arrived in Prague on Wednesday [6 Sep] at the invitation of the CPCZ Central Committee to study the party work in education, culture and science. [Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 7 Sep 78 p 2 AU]

CSO: 2400

EAST GERMANY

AUTHORITIES URGED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO CITIZEN CONCERNS

West German Commentary

Bonn IWE-TAGESDIENST in German No 146, 31 Jul 78 p 2

[Report from Berlin: "GDR Authorities To Process Citizen Petitions More Rapidly." A translation of the Potsdam-Babelsburg STAAT UND RECHT article discussed below follows this commentary]

[Text] The East Berlin professional journal STAAT UND RECHT criticized the slow processing of citizen petitions and grievances by communal authorities in the GDR. Investigations confirmed that processing deadlines are still not met, citizens are not given concrete answers to their petitions and certain requests are not confirmed at all. This not only clearly violates legal provisions, it also undermines the confidence citizens have in their state, because they rightfully expect state organs to settle their problems quickly and unbureaucratically. According to the journal, the evaluation of petitions by local authorities is also inadequate.

According to statistics by STAAT UND RECHT, the number of petitions and appeals filed against administrative decisions are "steadily increasing." In most cases the issues are living conditions, better organization of work and traffic patterns, adequate supplies of consumer goods, services and repairs, as well as guarantees for safety and order.

Greater Efficiency Needed in Government

Potsdam-Babelsburg STAAT UND RECHT in German Vol 27 No 7, July 78 signed to press 26 May 78 pp 588-597

[Article by Dr Heidrun Pohl and Prof Dr Gerhard Schulze, GDR Academy of Political Science and Jurisprudence: "A High Level of Socialist Legality Must Be Ensured in Processing Citizen Concerns"]

[Text] During the process of forming a developed socialist society and while on the way to communism, demands on the quality and effectiveness of the work of state organs is steadily increasing.¹ This process is inseparably

connected with the increase in the social effectiveness of the law to further the development of socialist attitudes and relations of citizens and universally guarantee the achievement of their rights and duties.² This causes important consequences for the shaping of relations of the organs of the state apparatus and each individual state functionary with the citizens. Their goal is to create a more intimate relationship and increase the trust between the socialist state and its organs as well as the citizens.

Particularly during the time when unity of economic and social politics is being carried out, the conscious social initiatives of the working class, farming cooperatives, the intelligentsia and other working segments in all areas of society is growing. Citizens are making full use of political freedoms and social rights, which are not only guaranteed to them by the socialist state but for the realization of which the state is continuously creating better conditions. The active participation by citizens in the management of the state, the economy and other areas of society has become a distinct characteristic of the social life in socialism, a prerequisite for the universal development of socialist personalities.

In this regard, attentive and unbureaucratic handling of personal concerns, with which citizens are turning to the organs of their socialist state, is taking on greater significance. It is of utmost importance for our citizens that even in personal matters they be able to count on the concern of state organs, on an attentive and considerate, sensitive and polite attitude of state functionaries. With bitter sarcasm, W. J. Lenin sharply criticized every kind of bureaucracy and the delaying of citizens' concerns. He called for rigorous procedures against all those who are forcing working people "to run to an office four or five times" to take care of a single matter.³ He demanded that suggestions, applications and complaints of workers be reviewed with strict objectivity and high responsibility and that indifference, bureaucratic attitudes and negligence not be tolerated.

Entirely in the spirit of these demands by Lenin, L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, stated: "It is important that each person knows that he has the same rights as the other members of society and that he can always rely on just, respectful treatment, concern of the state, as well as help and support by the collective. Every person is interested in active participation in affairs concerning his own enterprise or establishment and matters concerning his state. Every person would like to be confident about tomorrow and a secure future for his children. In our country we have created the prerequisites to satisfy these social needs. That is the enormous accomplishment of socialism. We must preserve and increase it like all other social riches."⁴

In accordance with these teachings and experiences an extensive amount of work is being done in our state in order to create the necessary conditions for citizens everywhere to be better able to submit their concerns to state organs and for a careful analysis and unbureaucratic handling of requests and applications by citizens. The issue is to gain an exact knowledge

of the needs of the people, their concerns and problems, to search together with them for solutions and to create the prerequisites for their active participation.

Experience has taught that the willingness of the individual to participate in the affairs of the entire society grows when he feels that state organs are doing all they can to help him solve his personal problems in correspondence with the objective possibilities and on the basis of legal directives. That means that a great deal of attention must be accorded by organs of the state apparatus to the processing of and decisions on petitions, applications and appeals from citizens.

The guarantee of the rights and interests of citizens during the processing of the decisions on their petitions, applications and appeals is concretely defined in a number of legal directives.

Generally the constitution of the GDR establishes that citizens can go with their requests and proposals to social, state and economic organs and establishments.⁵ They have the right

--to submit written and oral petitions to the people's representatives and organs of the state apparatus,⁶

--to submit applications for satisfactory material and cultural needs to the organs of the state apparatus,⁷

--to appeal administrative decisions based on current regulations applying to the specific case.⁸

The number of citizens who are using this means to take their requests to the state apparatus is steadily increasing. This demonstrates, above all, the growing confidence in the politics of the party of the working class and the socialist state as well as their willingness to actively participate in the solution of state and social concerns. Responsible processing of petitions, applications and appeals from citizens has become a regular component of the activities of the organs of the state apparatus.

A great lack of understanding for the high level of social democracy which has been achieved is evident when, in this connection, civic lawyers speak of "limited legal protection for citizens of the GDR by the administration."⁹ Such statements are not only contradicting current legal regulations for the guarantee of the rights of citizens in the GDR, but also the actual efforts and successes of state organs in this area, as has been proven by analyses of their work.

Paying Strict Attention to Principles of Processing Petitions

An important role in firming relations between the socialist state and its citizens is played by their petitions and the principles of socialist law governing the processing of these petitions by organs of the state apparatus.

According to the constitution and the petition law,¹⁰ every citizen has the right to submit written or oral suggestions, hints, requests and complaints to people's representatives, administrative state and economic organs, state enterprises and combines, socialist cooperatives and establishments, as well as to deputies. These petitions are essential instruments to be used by citizens to realize their right to codetermination and coshaping of the political, economic, social and cultural life in our socialist state.

The structure of petitions shows that in addition to complaints about decisions by state organs and inefficiency in their operations, there are at the same time many suggestions and hints for better solutions to state problems. Personal concerns of citizens as well as matters of social interest are indicative of the contents of these petitions. For instance, citizens are commenting on the intensification of socialist production in enterprises, combines, cooperatives and establishments, on the development of social life in cities and communities and the improvement of working and living conditions. The focal point of many petitions is the improvement in housing, better organization of occupational and traffic patterns, adequate supply of consumer goods, services and repairs, as well as a guarantee for safety and order. It is of particular importance to carefully evaluate citizens' suggestions and hints contained in these petitions and to use them for the fulfillment of planned tasks. It is a sign of the increased consciousness of citizens that constructive suggestions are taking up more and more space in these petitions.

Analyses of petitions, however, indicate also that citizens expect state organs to process their requests quickly and unbureaucratically. Part of this is, above all, the factually accurate and timely processing of petitions. Of great significance, therefore, is a strict adherence to the principles governing the processing of petitions, which attained the rank of a law with the petition law. Accordingly, for all administrative state and economic organs, state enterprises and combines, socialist cooperatives and establishments the following principles are in effect:

1. The managers are personally responsible for the orderly processing of petitions. For them as well as for their coworkers a respectful attitude toward the citizens and careful and speedy processing of their requests are fundamental duties (paragraphs 2 and 4).
2. The managers must make sure that citizens can bring their petitions and other requests in person and can be counseled (paragraph 3). The important

thing in this respect is to present more opportunities to the population to speak with politically responsible leaders of state organs in order to establish a closer and more real trust between socialist state powers and citizens.

3. The decisions on petitions must be made strictly on the basis of legal directives (paragraph 5). This requires the application of current legal directives for the proper solution of the specific problem as well as the observance of the principles for processing petitions in accordance with the petition law. All possibilities must be examined to help citizens with the solution of their problems. This includes a decision, made within the framework of the plan and on the basis of legal directives, which is the most favorable solution for the citizen. In the process an attempt should be made to simultaneously find long-term and permanent solutions to the respective problems and to remove the causes for their existence as much as possible.

4. The decision on the petition is to be made no later than 4 weeks after it is received or becomes known and the citizen is to be informed within the same time period (paragraph 7). The citizen is entitled to a factually documented and prompt reply. It can be made by letter or orally. It is beneficial to substantiate negative decisions in writing and to explain them in person to the citizen.

Analyses of petitions confirm that there are still cases where processing deadlines are not kept and citizens are given inconclusive replies to their petitions, or certain petitions are not acknowledged at all. Most of the time this leads to repeated petitions concerning the same matters; consequently, the respective state organs should consistently observe legally regulated directives for format and time periods regarding the processing of and decisions on petitions. If there are compelling reasons the processing of the petition cannot be concluded within 4 weeks, the citizen must be told the reason the deadline cannot be met. At the same time he must be told when he can expect a decision on his petition.

5. It is inadmissible that the staff employee or the manager, whose work or attitude is criticized in the petition, be allowed to process this petition and render a decision (paragraph 6). The decision on such a petition must be made by the competent or higher-ranked supervisor.

6. While the petitions are being processed, the managers must work closely with the committees of the National Front, labor unions and other social organizations. They are obligated to participate in the discussions of citizens' petitions at the invitation of enterprises, cooperatives and establishments, as well as brigades, committees of the National Front, tenants' organizations and other collectives of workers (paragraph 2, section 3; paragraph 5, section 2).

Starting with these principles of processing petitions, it is important to utilize everywhere and develop continuously the good methods and experiences which were collected during the election movement of 1976 and evaluated during the fourth meeting of the Central Committee of the SED in September 1976.¹¹ Among them are particularly:

--the immediate clarification of petitions by the organs of the state apparatus, involving workers' collectives, tenants' associations and social organizations and by carrying on personal talks with citizens;

--an increase in the influence on the processing of petitions by local people's representatives and their councils and through regular discussions of petition analyses and resulting conclusions;

--the increase in quality of statements and conclusions in petition analyses to boost their effectiveness for the improvement of state leadership;

--the goal-directed public work of local councils for answering questions from citizens;

--the strict control over factually accurate and timely processing of petitions.

These and other forms and methods of working with citizens' petitions by local people's representations and their councils were also generalized in September 1977 with the report by the council of the Bezirk Leipzig before the Council of Ministers.

For the continued implementation of the principles governing the processing of petitions, procedures for petitions have proven valuable in state practice. These were primarily established by councils of bezirks, counties, cities and communities. They formulated concrete rules--beginning with the responsibility of the leaders for the orderly processing of petitions--concerning the specific procedure regarding the responsibility for decisions and signatures for subordinate supervisors and staff employees and the control over the processing of the petitions in local councils, their special organs and subordinate enterprises and establishments. At the same time, local councils have established office hours to provide adequate opportunities for citizens to submit their petitions in person. These petition procedures are regulating the registration of petitions in petition books or files to make sure that all suggestions, hints and criticisms by citizens are processed and utilized for the improvement of the state leadership. The function of petition procedures is to contribute concrete guidelines for the support of managers and staff employees at the organs of the state apparatus during the implementation of the petition law and to continue the improvement of order and discipline while working on citizens' petitions.

In this regard, an important condition for the improvement in the processing of petitions is the continuous expansion of the factual and legal expertise of state functionaries.

Differences Between Petitions and Appeals To Be Observed

A problem which is connected with the guarantee of socialist law during the processing of requests is the attention that must be given to the difference between citizens' petitions and appeals. The evaluation of petition analyses by local councils indicates that in this respect the petition law is generally not yet uniformly applied. Paragraph 1, section 3 states explicitly that the processing of and decisions on citizens' appeals against state decisions do not fall within the jurisdiction of the petition law. Consequently, appeals have to be processed in accordance with specific principles which are contained in special legal directives.

In addition to the general right to petition, the laws of the GDR also provide special procedures for citizens to appeal decisions by organs of the state apparatus or state functionaries, if they do not agree with an individual decision. Appeals against individual decisions by the state are to be filed on the basis of special legal regulations. In contrast to the petition right, opportunities for a citizen to make an appeal present a few special characteristics.

1. Appeals are only possible wherever they are expressly provided for in legal ordinances (for example, in paragraph 12 of the ordinance covering the responsibility of councils in communities, city districts, cities and counties for the construction and remodeling of buildings by the population, dated 22 March 1972, LEGAL GAZETTE II, p 293, or paragraph 33 of the law concerning the right against illegal acts, dated 12 January 1968, LEGAL GAZETTE I, p 101).

2. Appeals are always directed against a single decision by the state, for instance, against the denial of an application for the construction of a garage or against a penalty. However, appeals are not possible if a citizen wants to criticize the manner of operation by a state functionary if there has not been a decision against which an appeal is provided in a legal ordinance.

3. Only the person to whom the decision was addressed has the opportunity to file an appeal, that is, the citizen whose application for the construction of a garage has been denied or the person against whom a penalty was levied.

In contrast to an appeal, the petition offers the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive manner in the management and planning of the state and to proceed against attitudes by organs of the state apparatus or state functionaries. During the processing of citizens' requests by organs of the state apparatus there should be a constant check to determine whether it is a

petition which is to be processed according to the principles of the petition law or whether it is an appeal which has to be processed and decided on the basis of specific legal ordinances.

The procedure for the processing of and decisions on appeals by organs of the state apparatus is laid down in detail in a great number of legal ordinances and presented in many different ways. The legal effect of an appeal can be different for different citizens, reflecting the peculiarities of the state leadership to which it refers. The rules for appeals are determined by the fact that the appeal must be filed with the organ or manager who made the individual decision which is being contested. The recipient can do this by letter or in person within a certain time period following the receipt of the decision. The rules establishing time periods vary in the legal ordinances, ranging from 2 to 4 weeks. There are also deadlines for the decision on the appeal by the organ or manager, ranging between 1 and 2 weeks. The procedure of the appeal consists of two stages. If the complaint by the citizen is not allowed or not fully granted, it is to be passed on to the superior organ or manager. Here the final decision about the appeal will be made. A few legal directives, for instance, the ordinance concerning the allocation of housing space (paragraph 22), contain provisions which will grant a stay during the appeal. In this case, the decision against which it is directed can only be implemented after a final decision has been made on the appeal. If the appeal does not merit a stay, the decision is to be implemented in spite of the appeal.

A great number of the legal directives contain an obligation for the appropriate organs of the state apparatus to include instructions for appeals when individual decisions are handed down to citizens. The citizen must be clearly informed of when and where he can file an appeal against the decision. The consistent observation of this legal duty by the organs of the state apparatus contribute to the fact that citizens will have a better and better opportunity to take a real advantage of their rights.

It is necessary for the organs of the state apparatus to pay attention to these peculiarities while processing appeals--in contrast to petitions. Likewise, during the registration and analysis a better distinction should be made between petitions and appeals.

The appeal as a means for citizens to subject to individual decisions by the state and, subsequently, instigate a new investigation, is aimed at the guarantee of socialist laws within which the organs of the state apparatus operate. The unique processing principles also offer citizens considerable advantages. They consist of short time periods for processing, the possibility of a stay for the implementation of a decision falling within legally prescribed cases, as well as the processing of appeals in two stages without additional actions by the citizen, if the decisionmaking organ does not grant a change corresponding to the wishes of the appellant.

Petitions To Be Evaluated for Additional Relief in Interest of Citizens

The careful analysis and thorough evaluation of petitions is of great significance for the strengthening of socialist law during the process of handling citizens' petitions. The petition law obligates the leadership of state and economic organs, state enterprises and combines, socialist co-operatives and establishments to regularly evaluate petitions and the results of their processing and to utilize them for the improvement in performance, particularly for the fulfillment of state plans and the promotion of workers' initiative (paragraph 9). Above all, people's representatives and their councils are to a large extent responsible for the evaluation of the results from processing petitions for the social development in their respective territory. The People's Chamber, the most powerful state organ in the GDR, has a committee for citizens' petitions which carries out numerous investigations of the processing of petitions by state and leading economic organs, locally supports the realization of the petition law on the spot, and evaluates the experience and insights which have been gained for central state decisions. Local people's representatives are periodically accepting reports from their councils and controlling the processing and evaluation of petitions within their jurisdiction. Regular analyses of citizens' petitions by the Council of Ministers and local councils are playing an important role. In the process, good experiences during the handling of petitions by the state apparatus are generalized, and it is important to draw conclusions from these petitions which are made frequently and deal with the same problems. They can be utilized in state management and planning. It is beneficial to use focal points in petitions for principal regulations providing for relief in the interest of citizens. The evaluation of citizens' petitions led, for instance, to the decision by the Council of Ministers to issue measures for the simplification in the preparation and completion of privately-owned homes, including the procedures for obtaining permits, dated 17 June 1976 (LEGAL GAZETTE I, p 307). Also in the area of maintenance and administration of the housing fund, citizens' petitions led to new state decisions. For instance, the Council of Ministers introduced measures for the maintenance and administration of housing space in counties, cities and communities, particularly in working-class districts in cities. They contain provisions for greater efforts to expand the State-Owned Communal Housing Administration [VEB Kommunale Wohnungsverwaltung] or building enterprise into efficient enterprises with their own maintenance departments and to promote citizens' participation.

Likewise, local councils should analyse petitions directed to them for the establishment of annual plans or general resolutions for the efficient development of socialist production and for the improvement of working and living conditions for the citizens. For instance, the council of the Bezirk Suhl, in response to many citizens' petitions, made sure that with regard to the construction or repair of chimneys the plan would include the availability of adequate supplies.

The processing of petitions in the state apparatus is becoming more and more a device for measuring the extent of success in the attempt to strengthen the relationship with citizens and increasing their confidence. Altogether, it is to be utilized more in order to implement the socialist law in state operations strictly and to consistently preserve the rights of citizens. A constant qualifying of substance and legality is contributing to the fact that the needs of the citizens are better satisfied and their responsibility for the solution of state and social problems is promoted.

FOOTNOTES

1. Cf. E. Honecker, "Die Aufgaben der Partei bei der weiteren Verwirklichung der Beschluesse des IX. Parteitages der SED" [The Tasks of the Party During the Continued Realization of the Resolutions of the Ninth Party Rally of the SED], NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 18/19 February 1978
2. Cf. Report of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to the Ninth Party Rally of the SED. Reporter: Comrade Erich Honecker, Berlin, 1976, p 113 f.
3. Cf. W. I. Lenin, Werke [Works], Vol 32, Berlin p 449.
4. L. I. Brezhnev, "Fuer weitere Erfolge beim Aufbau des Kommunismus" [For Continued Success during the Buildup of Communism], NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, 15 June 1974, p 3.
5. Cf. Article 21, section 2 and article 103 of the constitution of the GDR.
6. Cf. Law about processing citizens' petitions--petition law, 19 June 1975, LEGAL GAZETTE I, p 461.
7. The procedure for the processing of and decisions on applications is specified in various legal directives in connection with the factual regulation of specific matters (for instance, the ordinance concerning the allocation of housing space, 14 September 1967, LEGAL GAZETTE II, p 733).
8. The procedure for the processing of and decisions on appeals is regulated in the law about the new edition of rules for appeals against decisions by state organs, 24 June 1971 (LEGAL GAZETTE I, p 49) and in other legal directives as, for instance, in the ordinance about the responsibility of councils in communities, city bezirks, cities and counties during the construction and remodeling of buildings of the population, 22 May 1972, LEGAL GAZETTE II, p 293.

9. Cf L. Schultz, "Die gerichtliche Kontrolle von Verwaltungsakten in den sozialistischen Staaten" [Judicial Control of the Administrative Records in Socialist Countries], RECHT IN OST UND WEST, West Berlin, 1974, p 246.
10. Cf. loc. cit.
11. Cf. From the report of the politburo to the fourth meeting of the Central Committee of the SED. Reporter: Comrade Horst Dohlus, Berlin, 1976, p 26 ff.
12. Cf. R. Opitz and G. Schuessler, "Die Bearbeitung der Eingaben der Bevoelkerung als Bestandteil der staatlichen Leitungstaetigkeit" [The Processing of Citizens Petitions as a Component of the Leadership Activities of the State], STAAT UND RECHT, 1978, p 220 ff; S. Klemm and M. Naumann, "Zur Arbeit mit den Eingaben der Buerger" [About the Work With Citizens Petitions], Berlin, 1977.

8991

CSO: 2300

HUNGARY

BRIEFS

NEW MILITARY RADIO--In recent years, there has been a rapid development in the production of semi-conductor components and radioelectronic assemblies in the socialist countries. Among other things, this has made possible a proposal for new tactical-technical requirements regarding military UHF radiostations. One such radiostation has been developed at the Hungarian Military Institute of Technology. The design of the radiostation was based on transistors, diodes and integrated circuits using the latest production technology. The receiver has a single-stage superheterodyne circuit. The final stage of the transmitter is broad-band, push-pull; appropriate harmonic suppression is ensured by a special filter. A radiostation can be pre-programmed for different frequencies. With a single battery charge, the radiostation can be operated for nearly 24 hours. Production is economical. Repairs are simple and its reliability is very high. [Text] [Warsaw PRZEGLAD OBRONY CYWILNEJ in Polish No 7, Jul 78 p 58]

CSO: 2600

NAVAL AIR FORCE WARTIME ROLE DISCUSSED

Warsaw SKRYDLATA POLSKA in Polish No 34, 20 Aug 78 pp 6, 7

[Excerpts] The naval air force is one of the basic components of the Navy. During the course of its existence, the air force has been systematically modernized and has gone through organizational and quantitative changes in order to arrive at the present organizational forms which enable the best performance of assigned tasks. That is, the tasks of the naval air force ensue from the functions and tasks of the Navy.

Among the chief tasks of the naval air force are: the shielding of Polish surface ships and submarines against air strikes; carrying out reconnaissance as well as the detection and attacking of enemy surface ships and submarines. This air force is composed of fighter and fighter=assault aircraft having the armament and equipment necessary for waging a battle at sea such as torpedoes, mines and the like. Attack aircraft, which can be armed with diverse weaponry, are the backbone of the naval air force. They are capable of attacking targets individually, in pairs or in small groups. Their main target at sea will be small, swift and highly maneuverable craft which under wartime conditions can be expected most likely in the Baltic Sea. Here, enemy ships will be combatted by individual aircraft or in cooperation with Polish ships' assault groups.

Naval air force pilots are very well prepared to carry out standard missions. This has been borne out during exercises organized in the Baltic by the Navy and within the framework of the allied fleets. Naval air force reconnaissance aircraft are capable of quickly detecting enemy ships and determining their intentions at such a distance from friendly forces as to be able to destroy them before they use their armaments. Equipped with appropriate radar reconnaissance equipment, they can conduct reconnaissance regardless of the time of day or atmospheric conditions.

Rescue helicopters are assigned to the protection and rescue of human life at sea. The crews of these helicopters, along with the remaining resources of the rescue system, protect the crews of the aircraft, naval vessels and any type of ship performing missions at sea.

POLAND

BRIEFS

NAVAL IMPROVEMENTS--In recent years, the Navy has been equipped with a variety of unique and modern degaussing devices, installed primarily on the newest ships. Also developed have been miniaturized mobile monitor-measuring stations based on digital-circuit engineering using integrated components, magnetic-store logic circuits and the like. Many of these devices have been submitted with a recommendation for use in Warsaw Pact armies. Ships being built in our shipyards for the Navy and for export are being equipped with domestically produced degaussing equipment. Technical development is an ongoing process. In the course of this development more and more problems emerge. Ship speed and maneuverability are still the current problems in our work which is supported by practical, substantive activity and scientific research. For example, in shipbuilding, higher strength steel, light alloys and plastics are being used in hull and superstructure construction. High speed-low specific weight engines, multi-engine and combined power plants, variable pitch screw propellers and the like are being used in propulsion. [Excerpt] [Warsaw ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI in Polish 25 Aug 78 p 3]

CSO: 2600

'SCINTEIA' COMMENTS ON CREATION OF UNITED ROMANIAN STATE

Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1920 GMT 13 Sep 78 AU

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 13/9/1978--

One of the permanences of the Romanian history--those that cross the centuries and become lasting columns supporting the national edifice--is the Romanians' awareness of their kinship, notes the Romanian daily SCINTEIA in an article dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Romanian unitary national state. It is best expressed in the very name the inhabitants of the Romanian lands used for nominating themselves: Romanians.

As is known, the Romanian people was born on a geographic area that had been lived [in] from time immemorial by its ancestors, the Geto-Dacians--a unitary people, a vigorous branch of the great Thracian trunk. Two thousand and fifty years ago the centralized independent Dacian state was created by Burebista on the base created by the ethnic and linguistic unity of the Geto-Dacians--this ensuring the unitary work for the development of all Geto-Dacians.

The Roman conquest, SCINTEIA writes, did not mean the end of this unity, though it is only part of the vast Geto-Dacian lands that were practically turned into Roman provinces. Coming after a slow penetration of the Roman ethnic and cultural elements, penetration that had begun two centuries before the Roman conquest, the intense Romanizing of the natives--being given an impetus by the existence of numerous Roman military units, by the massive colonization with Latin speaking elements from all around the empire--changed the whole Dacian territory into an area of vigorous Romanic life. The retreat of the Roman army and administration did not mean the end of the North Danubian Romanity either, most of the Dacian-Roman population continuing to live uninterruptedly here, clearly marking themselves, by their very name, from the migrating peoples.

As a matter of fact, both the Roman Empire, and later on, the Byzantine Empire kept on being interested in these Romanic people north [of] the

Danube and their almost permanent contacts with the empire, the consolidation of the North-Danubian Roman world by adding Romanic elements from the south made them remain vividly aware of their belonging to the Roman world, made the "Roman seals" become immortal.

This awareness of their Roman origin, of their common origin penetrated the deep strata of the people, was preserved by the Romanians during the following centuries too, in spite of the hostile times having forced them to live in several separate political formations. The Romanians being aware of their common origin favoured the settlement and development of collaboration and mutual help in all domains (cultural, political, economic, demographic) among Moldavia, Transylvania and Wallachia. In their turn, these permanent relations deepened the mutual knowledge of the Romanians, contributed to strengthening the awareness of their common origin, made clearer the need for joint action, for concerted efforts in the fight for independence and national unity.

The tendencies of political unity were best expressed by the union achieved in 1600 by Michael-the-Brave. Even though the unfavourable home and international circumstances prevented the Romanian unitary feudal state to be maintained, Michael's union left deep marks in the conscience of the people, has become a symbol, stirring even more the will of unity and independence.

In their fight for national emancipation, the Romanians in Transylvania proved to be particularly aware of their common origin, and their arguments were Romanians' autochthony, their Romanity, the uninterrupted living on the ancestors' lands, their numeric preponderance, etc. At the same time, SCINTEIA notes the awareness was clearly expressed of a common origin of the Transylvanians, Wallachians and Moldavians.

Since the 18th century, the idea of Romanians' romanity has changed ever more from a latent form of the collective consciousness into an idea, a political force. It was expressed by the 1821 and 1848 revolutions.

Once with the maturation of Romanian people's self-awareness, the fight for building the unitary national state to come to its final stage, the union of Moldavia and Wallachia in 1859, the independence gained in 1877 being important stages towards the great union of 1918.

CSO: 2020

ROMANIA

DISTORTIONS OF ROMANIAN HISTORY BY WESTERN SOCIALIST HISTORIANS

Bucharest VIATA MILITARA in Romanian Aug 78 pp 13, 27

[Interview with Col Dr Al Gh Savu, of the Center for Studies and Research on Military History and Theory, by D. Nicoara: "The Contribution of Military Historians to the Study of the Problems Involved in the Organization and Execution of the Insurrection of August 1944."]

[Excerpt] Question: To what extent has foreign historiography reflected the armed insurrection of 23 August 1944 and what is its opinion in regard to this event which was of such great importance not only for Romanian history but also for other peoples?

Answer: The prestige which Romania knows in the international sphere finds its natural counterpart in the field of historiography. The number of foreign men of learning who are choosing as research themes the important events from the past of our people or who are assigning substantial space to this past in the works of world history is becoming larger and larger.

In this context, one can easily detect an amplification of the treatment of the Romanian insurrection in foreign historiography dealing with World War II. Many of the works published abroad contain truthful evaluations of the causes, development, and significance of the events of August 1944.

However, one must say, openly, that there are works appearing in foreign historiography which give a truncated or even distorted picture of the national armed insurrection of 23 August 1944. The nature of the errors differs from author to author and there is not "one point of view" but a diversity of opinions, generated by different causes. Thus, from time to time emigrees from Romania or from other socialist countries succeed in releasing on Western markets materials claiming to be scientific which include invectives directed against the insurrection forces. Distorted treatments can also be found in the works of some authors in various Western countries who, because of lack of information or because of their own views, either keep silent about or deny the decisive role of the demo-

cratic forces, headed by the Romanian Communist Party, in organizing and carrying out the insurrection. Likewise, inconsistent opinions are expressed in works published in some socialist countries. In contradiction with the truth, the promoters of the respective opinions attempt to accredit the thesis that the liberation of Romania was the result of the action of external factors--thus, their tendency to reduce the wide extension of the insurrection in manner and form and to diminish its significance.

Military historians in Romania have consistently taken a stand against distortions of every type and have defended with high principledness the truth about the fighting past of the Romanian people.

Question: In studying such documents, a question arises: how do you explain the fact that, at the call of the Romanian Communist Party, the Romanian army, in its totality, turned its arms against the fascists?

Answer: Indeed, the act of the turning of arms by the entire Romanian Army in August 1944 is regarded as one of the most interesting and most spectacular events of the last world conflagration. Considered as a "miracle" for a long time--the term "miracle" was used by a German historian--this act has found a sound scientific explanation in our historiography, an explanation upheld by an analysis of the following factors:

In the first place--the anti-fascist and anti-Hitlerite state of mind which prevailed in the Romanian Army before the country fell under the domination of the Third Reich. It is known that this state of mind became more accentuated under the impact of some events which were in complete contradiction to national interests and to the interests of the army itself: the territorial losses in the summer of 1940, the massive introduction of German troops in Romania, the involvement of our country in a war against the Soviet Union. As a result, among the masses of soldiers, from private to general, the conviction was strengthened that the alliance with the Reich was unnatural and ephemeral and dangerous and harmful to Romanian interests.

In the second place--the ever more powerful influence exercised by the Romanian Communist Party and other patriotic groups in the country on the army. Thoroughly knowing the realities of the Romanian Army, the fact that it was disposed to join the progressive forces, the forces of the people--as it had done at all the turning points of our history--the Romanian Communists reached the correct conclusion that the entire army, not just certain categories of soldiers or isolated units, would be brought into the struggle for the liberation of the country.

In the third place--the achievement, on the initiative of the RCP, of a broad coalition of patriotic, national forces which worked together in the struggle for the elimination of fascist domination. This coalition, encompassing all viable political currents, all the social classes and categories which formed Romanian society, represented, in the given historic conditions, the only indisputable authority whose will was synonymous with the will of the country. Its appeal to the army was equivalent to the appeal of the country itself and was, certainly, one of the fundamental factors serving as a basis for the unity of will and action of the army during the course of the events of August 1944.

In conclusion, the awareness strongly manifested in the ranks of the entire people and the army, in the summer of 1944, that there loomed on the horizon a military and political crash which would have resulted in additional irreparable losses if the Romanian nation had not found in herself the necessary resources to bring about, on her own, a change in destiny.

A thorough analysis of these factors, examined in their convergent action, offers, in my opinion, all that is necessary for arriving at a truthful and objective explanation of the reason why the entire Romanian army turned their arms in August 1944.

Question: As a lover of history, I would be interested in a book about the commanders of the large Romanian military units during this period and the inner motives which prompted them to act so quickly at the call of the RCP. Is your institution preparing such a work?

Answer: A collective of specialists from the Center for Studies and Research on Military History and Theory, under the coordination of Major General Dr Ilie Ceausescu, discovered a vast amount of archives material dealing with this subject. The scientific processing of the material is at an advanced stage. I am convinced that the work, when it is published, will satisfy all the needs of history lovers.

CSO: 2700

AMENDED DECREE ON FIRE PREVENTION PUBLISHED

Bucharest BULETINUL OFICIAL in Romanian Part I No 71, 2 Aug 78
pp 1-11

/Decree No 232/1971* of the Council of State on Fire Prevention and Control/

/Text/ The development of the technical-material base of society and the improvement in the well-being of all the people, in accordance with the program formulated by the party for building a multilaterally developed socialist society and Romania's advance toward communism, require greater efforts to increase the efficiency of the activity for protecting the national wealth against fire.

The protection of life, socialist property and individual assets against fire is a matter of national concern which must involve the state organs, the other socialist organizations, and all the citizens of this country.

For the purpose of creating the appropriate framework for the development of the activity of fire prevention and control,

The Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Romania hereby decrees:

* Republished, with a new numbering for the articles, on the basis of Article III of Decree No 249 of 10 July 1978 of the Council of State, which was published in BULETINUL OFICIAL AL REPUBLICII SOCIALISTE ROMANIA, Part I, No 60, 14 July 1978.

Decree No 232/1974 of the Council of State was published in BULETINUL OFICIAL No 10, 16 January 1975.

Chapter I. General Provisions

Article 1. In the Socialist Republic of Romania the protection of the national wealth against fire is a patriotic duty of all the citizens, who are required to participate with all the available means in the activity of fire prevention and control.

Article 2. The socialist organizations and the other legal persons are required to take all the necessary steps to prevent and extinguish fire on all the assets which they hold with any title.

Article 3. The responsibility for taking the steps to prevent and extinguish fire lies with the ministers, leaders of the other central bodies, chairmen of the executive committees and of the executive bureaus of people's councils, general managers and managers of centrals and other centralized units, heads of enterprises, economic organizations, state institutions, and the other legal persons.

Article 4. The military firemen units of the Ministry of Interior, the technical commissions for fire prevention and control, the civilian firemen units of socialist organizations and localities shall conduct the activity of fire prevention and control in the context stipulated by this decree.

Article 5. The Ministry of Interior, through the Fire Fighters Command, guides and supervises the activity of fire prevention and is involved in extinguishing fire.

Article 6. Involved in the extinguishing efforts in major units, to assist the military fire fighters units and the civilian firemen units under the coordinated action plans approved by the local protection councils, are worker detachments, the militia, civilian local antiaircraft defence groups, and detachments for training youth to defend their homeland.

Article 7. The physical persons shall be answerable for meeting the fire prevention requirements and are required, when learning about fire hazards or in case of fire, to immediately inform the fire fighters and take steps to put the fire out.

Chapter II. Duties of Socialist Organizations, of the Other Legal Persons

Article 8. The ministries and the other central bodies, in their fire prevention and control activity, have the following main duties:

a. Organize, guide, and supervise the activity of fire prevention and control, as part of their powers in accordance with the legal provisions;

b. Issue standards for fire prevention and control which are mandatory in their branch or area of activity, with the accord of the Ministry of Interior, through the Fire Fighters Command;

c. Issue regulations for the provision of equipment to the subordinate units and make sure that these units receive engines, installations, facilities, apparatus, protective attire, and chemicals for fire prevention and control, with the accord of the Ministry of Interior, through the Fire Fighters Command;

d. In the annual and long-range economic and financial plans, proposes the funds required for the provision of engines, installations, facilities, apparatus, protective attire, and chemicals, and for the implementation of the fire prevention and control program;

e. In the collective leadership bodies, analyzes annually and whenever appropriate the activity of fire prevention and control.

The guidance and supervision of the fire prevention and control activity by ministries and the other central bodies and by centrals and other centralized units is exercised through technical personnel who are specially assigned to carry out these duties.

Article 9. The provisions named in Article 8 Paragraph 1 shall be correspondingly applied by centrals and the other centralized units and by the executive committees or the executive bureaus of people's councils; the provisions named under (b) and (c) shall be established by the executive committees of people's councils of counties and of Bucharest Municipality, in light of the characteristics of the administrative-territorial units.

Article 10. The State Planning Committee, in conjunction with the ministries, the other central bodies, and the executive committees or executive bureaus of people's councils, which supervise the units that turn out engines, installations, facilities, apparatus, protective attire, and chemicals for fire prevention and control, needed by the military fire fighters units, civilian firemen units and socialist organizations, shall propose the itemization of these products in the draft of the coordinated national plan for socioeconomic development.

The ministries, the other central bodies and the executive committees or executive bureaus of people's councils, which supervise manufacturing units, shall propose the incorporation in the annual national plans of designing, arrangement for the production, and production of the engines, installations, facilities, apparatus, protective attire, and chemicals for fire prevention and control and shall be involved with their continuous upgrading.

Article 11. The ministries and the other central bodies which supervise research and design units shall take steps for these units' annual and long-range plans to include research and design topics on new methods and procedures of fire prevention and control.

Article 12. The Ministry of Education and Teaching in conjunction with the Ministry of Interior shall establish the topics pertaining to fire prevention and control which shall be incorporated into the instructional programs and textbooks for schools at all levels.

Article 13. The ministries and the other central bodies shall provide the materials and facilities needed for the development of the instructional-educational activity for fire prevention in their branch or area of activity.

The socialist organizations and the other legal persons are required to conduct a sustained instructional-educational activity for fire prevention among their subordinate personnel.

Article 14. The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications shall organize, in light of the importance and fire hazards of their own units in railroad, river, and sea centers, mobile civilian firemen units, provided with fire engines, trains, and vessels and other specific facilities.

Article 15. In designing and completing the structures, installations, machines, facilities, technologies, rolling stock for railroad, automotive, maritime, and air transportation, the fire prevention and control requirements shall be specified, in norms and regulations, standards or other technical provisions.

Article 16. The leaders of designing organizations, the project leaders, and the designers are responsible for the specification, in the technical-economic documentation for investment projects, of the fire prevention and control requirements, in accordance with the provisions in force.

Article 17. The technical-economic councils and commissions shall also verify -- upon evaluation of the technical-economic documentation -- the manner in which the provisions of the norms, regulations, standards, and technical specifications on fire prevention and control have been followed.

Article 18. The leaders of the organizations for the completion of construction projects and their personnel are responsible for the taking and carrying out of the measures of fire prevention and control in the organization of construction sites, the completion of the projects and during the mechanical tests, run-in, and performance tests.

Article 19. The users of investment projects and the inspection commissions are required to verify the manner in which the provisions of the technical documentation pertaining to fire prevention and control have been met in completing the projects and whether the fire alarms and extinguishers are in working order.

Article 20. The socialist organizations shall deliver the products which they turn out and which are vulnerable to fire accompanied by specifications on usage and the regulations which must be met in storage, transportation, handling, utilization, and maintenance.

Article 21. The leaders of socialist organizations and the other legal persons shall establish, on the basis of legal provisions, the fire prevention and control regulations and the duties assigned to personnel at work places on engines, facilities, apparatus, installations, technological procedures, and shall ensure the training and monitoring of all the personnel.

The personnel are required to carry out the measures and the duties on fire prevention and control which were assigned to them.

Article 22. The committees and representatives of tenants associations have the following duties:

- a. To conduct among tenants an activity of information and observance of the fire prevention and control regulations;
- b. To ensure proper maintenance of the installations, equipment, and materials for fire prevention and control with which the buildings are provided;
- c. To promptly remedy any deficiency in terms of provision of the building with equipment and of the structure and installations, which involve fire hazards, whose remedying is, under the law, one of the tenants association's duties;
- d. To keep the entrance and exit routes of the building in accessible and proper condition;
- e. Not to allow the storage of combustible materials in attics and stair wells of buildings.

Chapter III. Duties of the Ministry of Interior

Article 23. The Ministry of Interior exercises its powers of fire prevention and control through the Fire Fighters Command and has the following duties:

- a. Organizes military fire fighters units and subunits, with the mission of preventing and extinguishing fire;

- b. Ensures the specialized guidance and supervision of fire prevention and control activity throughout the country's territory;
- c. Supervises the observance of the fire prevention and control regulations by the socialist organizations and establishes mandatory measures for the prevention and elimination of fire hazards;
- d. Organizes the involvement of the military fire fighters units and of the civilian firemen units at the fire site and establishes the procedure for cooperation with the worker detachments, militia, civilian local antiaircraft defence units, and the detachments for training the youth to defend their country;
- e. Issues, together with the bodies specified under the law, general specifications on the designing and completion of construction projects and installations and gives its approval on the specific standards issued by ministries and the other central organs in this area;
- f. Gives its agreement on regulations for fire prevention and control and standards for the provision with engines, installations, facilities, apparatus, and chemicals, which are established by ministries, the other central organs and the executive committees of people's councils of counties and of Bucharest Municipality;
- g. Cooperates with the state organs and organizations which are active in the area of the press, radio-television, and cinematography, for the popularization of the fire prevention and control regulations;
- h. Puts out, from the funds formed in accordance with legal provisions and provided by the executive committees or executive bureaus of people's councils, instructional-educational materials for fire prevention and control;
- i. Gives its consent to the establishment of technical commissions for fire prevention and control in the cases named in this decree;
- j. Gives its consent to the establishment of the civilian firemen units which are organized in enterprises, other economic organizations, state institutions; gives its agreement on the appointment of the heads of civilian firemen units;
- k. Exercises specialized guidance and supervision of civilian firemen units; organizes with these units drills and exercises which are specific to their duties, with the agreement of the executive bureaus of people's councils or, as the case may be, of the leaders of socialist units;

l. Gives specialized technical assistance to socialist organizations in working out the plan for protection against fire;

m. Together with the ministries and the other central bodies establishes the facilities at which the duties of heads of civilian firemen units are performed by technicians;

n. Conducts research and tests, in its own laboratories and facilities or in conjunction with the ministries and the other central bodies, on new procedures and means for fire prevention and control;

o. Gives its agreement on the approval of engines, installations, facilities, apparatus, protective attire, and chemicals for fire prevention and control, and on any structural changes which are subsequent to approval;

p. Issues specialized surveys and publications, in accordance with the legal provisions in force;

r. Performs any other duties specified under the law.

Article 24. The Ministry of Interior, through the Fire Fighters Command, takes action to prevent the destructive effects caused by calamities of nature or disasters and organizes the involvement of military fire fighters units and civilian firemen units in eliminating the aftermaths.

Consequently, the Fire Fighters Command, the military fire fighters units, and the civilian firemen units have, as the case may be, the following duties:

a. Save the persons in danger;

b. Participate in the evacuation of the persons and material assets on the sites of distress;

c. Participate in clearing, demolition, and work to remove the debris;

d. Participate in the carrying out of the measures for protection against flood, removal of water from basements, technological passages, and other essential points of enterprises and institutions;

e. Back up the drive to supply water to the population and to the technological facilities in the enterprises involved;

f. Give specialized assistance to the leaders of socialist organizations to prevent the eruption of fire during the return of the damaged equipment to working order;

g. Take steps to acquaint operational personnel with the plans of the facilities and buildings of socialist units and of housing structures, for the purpose of carrying out the duties of fire prevention and control and action in case of calamities of nature or disasters;

h. Monitor and take steps so that the manner of use of structures and the changes made may not affect their resistance to fire and may not generate fire hazards;

i. Supervises the system of following the fire prevention regulations in locating any types of storage units, heavy metal cabinets, other such items, libraries and archives, and of installations, seeing to it that as a rule they are located in the basement and first floor of buildings;

j. Take steps for the overall training of firemen units and for the proper provision of these units with equipment, to ensure their prompt involvement in saving persons and eliminating the other aftermaths of calamities of nature or disasters.

Article 25. In fulfilling its duties in fire prevention and control the Ministry of Interior cooperates with the ministries, the other central bodies, the executive committees of people's councils of counties and of Bucharest Municipality and along with these factors is responsible for the taking of the fire prevention and control measures. In its activity the Ministry of Interior relies on the broad involvement of the collectives of working people and of all the citizens.

Chapter IV. Technical Commissions for Fire Prevention and Control

Article 26. The ministries, the other central bodies and the executive committees of people's councils of counties and of Bucharest Municipality shall determine, in accordance with the provisions of this decree, as the case may be, the system of organization and operation of the technical commissions for fire prevention and control.

The establishment of the technical commissions for fire prevention and control shall be done by the executive committees or executive bureaus of people's councils, by centrals and the other centralized units and by enterprises; for the other economic organizations and for state institutions commissions shall only be established with the agreement of the military fire fighters units.

The members of the technical commissions for fire prevention and control shall be appointed by the executive committees or the executive bureaus of people's councils or, as the case may be, by the leading body of socialist organizations.

The activity conducted by the members of the technical commissions for fire prevention and control is part of job assignments.

Article 27. The technical commissions for fire prevention and control shall be comprised of executives, experts, and technicians capable of completing their assignments. For the executive committees or executive bureaus of people's councils, the commissions shall include workers from their own apparatus and from subordinate units, and for the other socialist organizations, personnel employed in the organizations involved.

Article 28. The technical commissions for fire prevention and control have the following main duties:

- a. Work out the plan for protection against fires for the socialist organization in which they operate and submit it for approval to the executive committee or executive bureau of the people's council or, as the case may be, to the leading body of the socialist organization;
- b. Give assistance to the department heads and the other workers for the training of personnel and organization of fire prevention and control programs at the points of production;
- c. Supervise the implementation of the provisions, regulations, and measures for fire prevention and control; make suggestions, as the case may be, to the executive committee or executive bureau of the people's council or management of the socialist organization, for the elimination of fire hazards;
- d. Verify the system of maintenance and operation of the alarm and extinguishing installations.
- e. On a monthly basis ensure the technical training and drilling of the civilian firemen units;
- f. In case of calamities of nature or disasters, take measures to prevent any fire danger in bringing back the production and auxiliary facilities into operation and to eliminate the defects which occurred in the alarms and fire prevention and control installations.

Chapter V. Civilian Firemen Units. Section I. Organization, Duties, Material Base

Article 29. The enterprises, the other economic organizations and the institutions, as well as the executive bureaus of people's councils of towns and communes which do not have military fire fighters units shall establish civilian firemen units, with the duty of conducting an activity of fire prevention and control and of being involved in eliminating the aftermaths of calamities of nature or disasters.

Article 30. The civilian firemen units shall as a rule be comprised of persons who are not specially employed in jobs specified for fire fighter personnel, whose activity is considered as civic assignment.

The civilian firemen units of socialist organizations which have facilities with technological processes which involve special fire danger or which have prevention and control equipment which requires handling by skilled personnel and the units of localities provided with fire trucks shall also include persons specially employed in operative posts specified for fire fighter personnel.

The employment in posts specified for fire fighter personnel shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of the structural regulations approved for each socialist organization.

The civilian firemen shall be selected from among the citizens who prove devotion and determination in protecting life, public property, and individual property, are familiar with the technological installations and processes in the units in which they are employed and are capable of carrying out the duties of the units. This selection shall preferably be made from among the persons who did their military service in the fire fighter units.

Article 31. The civilian firemen units are subordinates of the managements of socialist organizations or, as the case may be, of the executive bureaus of people's councils which established them.

In terms of implementation of their duties, the civilian firemen units also are subordinates of military fire fighter units.

Article 32. The civilian firemen units of socialist organizations shall be established on the basis of the written order of the leaders of these organizations, with the agreement of the military fire fighter units.

The civilian firemen units of towns, communes, and villages shall be established on the basis of the decision of the executive bureaus of town or communal people's councils.

In light of their size, the units of socialist organizations may belong to grades I, II, and III.

The organization of and provision of personnel to the civilian firemen units and the grade specification for those in socialist units are provided for in Appendix No 1.

Article 33. For major facilities or facilities with technological processes which involve special fire danger, named by ministries and the other central bodies, in conjunction with the Ministry of Interior, the position of head of civilian firemen unit shall be held by technicians or chief technicians with the pay of technician,

respectively chief technician, corresponding to the group of branches to which the unit involved belongs, but not higher than the one determined for group III of branches.

Article 34. The civilian firemen units have the following duties:

- a. Conduct activity for the familiarization with and implementation of the fire prevention and control regulations;
- b. Carry out inspections on the manner in which the fire prevention and control regulations are implemented, make suggestions for the elimination of the irregularities found, and monitor prompt correction;
- c. Take prompt action to contain the fire and save the persons and material assets which are in danger in case of fire or calamities of nature or disasters;
- d. Are involved in the efforts for protection against flood, clear the water from basements, technological passages, and other important points of enterprises and institutions;
- e. Are involved in projects for clearing and removing the debris caused by calamities of nature or disasters;
- f. Carry out the measures outlined by the leading bodies of socialist units to prevent fires during the process of bringing back into operation the technological installations which were damaged by calamities of nature or disasters.

Article 35. The tasks of the personnel of civilian firemen units, in conformance with the duties specified in Article 34, shall be established under plans for protection against fires of socialist organizations or, as the case may be, of executive bureaus of people's councils.

For the completion of the fire prevention and control duties, the civilian firemen units shall cooperate, under the plans for protection against fires of socialist organizations or localities, with the worker detachments, the civilian defence units, and with the detachments for the training of youth to defend their country.

During the process of extinguishing the fires or involvement in the elimination of the aftermaths of calamities of nature and disasters, the civilian firemen units shall take action together with the other forces of socialist units or localities, under the unified leadership of the commanders of worker detachments, until the arrival of the military fire fighter units, when they become their subordinates.

Article 36. The civilian firemen units carry out their duties in the socialist organizations and in the localities in which they were established.

In the situations specified by military fire fighter units by common accord with the leading bodies of socialist organizations or, as the case may be, with the executive bureaus of people's councils, the civilian firemen units shall also be involved in controlling fires and removing the aftermaths of calamities of nature or disasters in facilities, towns, communes, and villages other than those in which they were established.

Article 37. The provision of the civilian firemen units with technical means for fire prevention and control shall proceed on a differential basis depending on the fire danger and the specific character of the socialist organizations and localities, in accordance with the specifications issued by ministries, the other central bodies, and the executive committees of people's councils of counties and of Bucharest Municipality.

Article 38. The socialist organizations and the executive committees and bureaus of people's councils shall specify in the annual and long-range economic and financial plans or, as the case may be, in the annual budgets, the funds needed for the provision of the civilian firemen units with engines, installations, protective attire, and chemicals, development and maintenance of the water sources, of the supply platforms and access routes, alarm facilities, centers for the training of civilian firemen, shelter of the technical extinguishing means, and for the procurement of the materials required for the training and the carrying out of the duties of these units.

The expenses related to the civilian firemen units in the localities which do not have military fire fighter units shall be made within the limit of the amounts which go into the local budgets from the premiums obtained from insurance, under the law, of the assets of cooperative agricultural units and physical persons, earmarked -- in conformance with the legal provisions in effect -- for fire prevention and control programs.

Section II. Training

Article 39. The activity of training of the civilian firemen units shall be organized by the leading bodies of the socialist organizations or, as the case may be, by the executive bureaus of the city and communal people's councils, on the basis of the plans of subjects worked out by ministries, the other central bodies and the executive committees of people's councils of counties and of Bucharest Municipality, in conjunction with the Ministry of Interior -- the Fire Fighters Command.

The training of the civilian firemen units shall be provided on a monthly basis by the heads of these units and by the technical commissions for fire prevention and control through drills and exercises, conducted at work places, in sections and at production facilities, and also in specially appointed centers.

Article 40. The training of the heads of civilian firemen units shall be done by ministries, the other central bodies and by the executive committees of people's councils of counties and of Bucharest Municipality with the assistance of the Ministry of Interior -- the Fire Fighters Command, as follows:

- a. Annually, in the various counties, for 4-10 days, with the heads of units in socialist units and localities;
- b. At 3-5 year intervals, in the various production branches, for 15-30 days, with the heads of the units of socialist organizations, followed by testing and certification for the post;
- c. Through conferences and exchanges of experience, for the purpose of widely disseminating the most efficient methods of fire prevention and control.

Article 41. On the assignment to units of the fire engine drivers and mechanics, these workers shall be trained by the socialist organizations, respectively the executive bureaus of people's councils, with the specialized assistance of military fire fighters units, through 10-day classes and shall be certified for the post; these classes shall also be organized in the case of renewing the units' equipment with machines and installations of a higher standard.

Article 42. For the continuous improvement in the training of the civilian firemen units and the upgrading of the activity of fire prevention and control, patriotic emulations between units shall be annually organized on a countrywide and county level and in the various production branches. The foremost units on a countrywide and county level shall be determined by the Ministry of Interior -- the Fire Fighters Command, and the foremost units in the various branches, by ministries and the other central bodies, on the basis of the results obtained.

The foremost units and the civilian firemen that distinguished themselves in the efforts of fire prevention and control and in the carrying out of other duties may receive from the Ministry of Interior -- the Fire Fighters Command, the banner of countrywide foremost unit, the badge "Frontranker in Protection Against Fire," cups, plates, and awards.

Section III. Rights, Rewards

Article 43. The civilian firemen units are entitled to protective attire for action, which shall be provided by the socialist organizations or executive bureaus of people's councils under which they operate.

The standards for granting protective attire for action shall be those named in Appendix No 2.

Article 44. During their involvement in training, the civilian firemen who are employed have the legal entitlements relative to delegation, accommodation, and transportation, which shall be ensured by the socialist organizations which employ them.

The civilian firemen who are involved with training in other localities, others than those named in the prior paragraph, shall have free transportation, accommodation, and meals, within the range of the allowance established in accordance with legal provisions for trainees of vocational schools, and a daily allowance of 30 lei, from the executive bureaus of people's councils.

Article 45. The civilian firemen who are not employed and are involved in an accident during the training or the carrying out of the unit's duties are entitled to medical care, medicines, and hospitalization, on a free basis, and to pension, under the conditions specified by the law for persons who have accidents during the completion of civic assignments.

Article 46. The civilian firemen and other legal persons who were involved in extinguishing fires and who during the action had their clothing or footwear damaged or destroyed are entitled to compensations.

The compensations shall be granted by the socialist organization where action was taken to put the fire out or by the executive bureau of the people's council, if the action to put the fire out was taken in its subordinate units or in privately owned buildings.

The expenses for the granting of compensations shall derive, as the case may be, from the financial results of economic units, the expenditure plans of budgetary units or from the local budgets of people's councils.

Article 47. During the completion of service, the meetings for training, festivities, and professional contests, the civilian firemen may wear the uniform and badges.

Article 48. The description of the uniform, the description and procedure for the granting of the badges of civilian firemen, the flag of the foremost countrywide or county unit, and of the badge "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires" are contained in Appendix No 3.

Article 49. The civilian firemen of the units established in localities are exempted from donating their services and the mandatory duty of civic guard.

Article 50. The civilian firemen units and the civilian firemen who distinguish themselves in carrying out their duties may receive the rewards named in Appendix No 4.

The fund of bonuses for the civilian firemen units of towns, communes, and villages and for the firemen who conduct civic activities in these units shall be established within the limit of 3 percent of the local budget appropriations for fire prevention and control, in conformance with the legal provisions in effect.

Chapter VI. Penalties

Article 51. The violation of the provisions of this decree involves disciplinary, criminal, material, civil, or penal liability, as the case may be.

Article 52. Failure to take the measures specified by law to eliminate imminent fire danger by those who are allotted these tasks, if this might cause important damage to public property constitutes an infraction and shall be punished with 3 months to 2 years imprisonment or a fine, if the deed does not involve the factors of a more serious violation.

Article 53. The violations against the norms on fire prevention and control and the experts capable of determining them and apply police penalties shall be named by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Chapter VII. Final Provisions

Article 54. The organization of inspection on fire prevention and control in the units, organs, teams, institutions, and enterprises of the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Interior and their provision with engines, installations, facilities, apparatus, accessories, and extinguishers, and outfits for the development of training and propaganda against fires shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of this decree on the basis of the norms established by these central bodies.

Article 55. Supervision of the implementation of the fire prevention and control norms underground in all the types of mining enterprises shall be carried out by the Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Geology, through specially appointed organs.

Article 56. The socialist organizations and the other legal persons and the physical persons are required to provide the military

fire fighters units, for the performance of their duties, with the documents and data which they request.

Article 57. Within 90 days after the publication of this decree the norms specified in Article 8 (b) and (c) shall be issued.

Article 58. Appendixes 1-4 are integral parts of this decree.

Article 59. This decree goes into effect 90 days after publication in BULETINUL OFICIAL AL REPUBLICII SOCIALISTE ROMANIA.

On the date that this decree goes into effect, Decree No 455/1949 on the organization of military fire fighters, Decree No 102/1963 on the organization of civilian units of guard against fires and the establishment of measures on fire prevention and control, Decision No 169/1963 of the Council of Ministers on the implementation of Decree No 102/1963, and Decision No 983/1957 on the norms for provision of equipment and regulation of the production and distribution of machinery, technical materials, and products to fight fires are repealed.

Appendix No 1

Organization and Classification of Civilian Firemen Units and Criteria of Grade Classification of Civilian Firemen Units of Socialist Organizations

I. Organization, Classification of Civilian Firemen Units

A. Civilian Firemen Units of Socialist Organization

Number of Civilian Firemen					
Current No	Composition of the civilian unit	Classified for the various operative posts specified for firemen personnel	With civic activity	Total	Remarks
0	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Unit head	1	-	1	
2.	Work group with extinguishing technical facilities at:				
	a. Fire gun, special dust and nitrogen truck;	3	2	5	The work group shall be organized in three shifts and, as the case may be, shall include: a group leader, drivers, extinguisher loaders, fire pump and engine mechanics, and firemen.

0	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Fire truck and fire truck with fire gun, special fire engine with foam and special engine for smoke, gas and lighting;	4	4	8	
c.	Extinguisher trains and vessels;	5-8	-	5-8	
d.	Special engine with gas jet	2	-	2	
e.	First-intervention engine and extinguisher with dust and carbon dioxide	2	1	3	
f.	Ladder truck	3	1	4	
g.	Automotive pump and fixed pumps	1	4	5	
h.	Automotive generator	1	1	2	
i.	Automotive truck for water supply	1	2	3	
j.	Manual pump	-	8	8	
3.	Saving and evacuation group	-	3	3	Shall be organized for three shifts.
4.	Group for prevention in sections and facilities with special fire danger 1-5	-	-	1-5	Shall be organized for three shifts and shall have firemen.

B. Civilian Firemen Units of Towns, Communes, Villages

0	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Unit head	-	1	1	
2.	Work group with extinguishing facilities at:				The work group shall be organized for each facility provided and shall have a group leader, drivers, motor-driven pump mechanics, and firemen.
a.	Automotive truck, fire gun, automotive truck for water supply and special engine with foam	1	9	10	
b.	Ladder truck	1	5	6	
c.	First-intervention engine and extinguisher with dust and carbon dioxide	1	9	10	
d.	Motor-driven pump and manual pump	-	8	8	
3.	Group for prevention, supply, and saving	-	8	8	Shall have a group leader and firemen.

Note:

1. For the socialist organizations with minor fire danger and for those provided with manual pumps, the unit heads shall be appointed from among the employees on other posts.

2. The group leaders shall be classified and paid as unit heads grade III.

3. For civilian firemen units of localities which are provided with fire engines the permanent presence of a driver at their location shall be ensured.

II. Criteria for Grade Classification of Civilian Firemen Units of Socialist Organizations

1. The grade classification of civilian firemen units of socialist organizations shall be made in light of their provision with technical facilities for extinguishing fires and the number of civilian firemen established under their order of organization, as follows:

a. Grade I shall include the civilian firemen units of the socialist organizations which:

A. Were provided with two or more fire engines or one fire engine and two motor-driven pumps;

B. Have a number of 40 or more civilian firemen, including at least 17 on operative posts specified for fire fighter personnel.

b. Grade II shall include the civilian firemen units of the socialist organizations which:

A. Were provided with one fire engine or two or more motor-driven pumps;

B. Have a number of 25-39 civilian firemen including at least eight on operative posts specified for fire fighter personnel.

c. Grade III shall include the civilian firemen units of the socialist organizations which:

A. Were provided with one motor-driven pump or only installations of water on pipes with hydrants or initial facilities for intervention;

B. Have a number of 12-24 civilian firemen including at least three on operative posts specified for fire fighter personnel.

2. The grade classification of the civilian firemen units shall be established by the written order of the leaders of socialist organizations, with the agreement of the military fire fighters units.

3. A factor which shall be taken into consideration in establishing the grade of a unit is its cumulatively meeting the above specified criteria for the grade involved.

In case some units only meet one of the criteria for classification in a particular grade but operate in major socialist organizations or ones with special fire danger, they may be classified in that grade, with the agreement of the Fire Fighters Command.

Appendix No 2

Norms for Provision of Civilian Firemen Units With Protective Attire for Intervention

<u>Current No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Firemen belt	1	7 years	For each fireman
2.	Fireman cap	1	7 years	For each fireman
3.	Waterproof suit	1	3 years	For each fireman on the fire fighting engines and motor-driven pumps
5.	Knee-high rubber boots	1 pair	2 years	For each fireman on the fire fighter engines and motor-driven pumps
5.	Protective suit for high temperatures	1	5 years	Two suits for each fire fighter engine and motor-driven pump of the units of socialist organizations with facilities involving high fire danger

Note:

The protective attire may be replaced before the expiry of the period of use if it was destroyed or damaged during and as a result of carrying out the duties of the units.

Appendix No 3

Description of Uniform, Description and Procedure of Granting the Distinctive Signs of Civilian Firemen, Flag of Civilian Firemen Unit, Banner of Countrywide or County Foremost Unit and Badge of "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires"*

Description of Civilian Firemen's Uniform

1. The uniform of civilian firemen is brown and consists of coat, jacket, trousers (skirt), cap, white shirt, black tie, and black shoes.
2. The coat has lapels and on each side of the chest three yellow metal buttons. The back is cut out of two sides with a vertical seam in the middle, a strap at the waistline, and in the bottom part, in continuation of the seam, a slit. The side parts of the coat have two pockets with inside pouch and flaps.
3. The jacket is slightly fitted at the waistline, has lapels, and one row of three yellow metal buttons. The back is cut from two sides, with a vertical seam in the middle, and in the bottom part, in continuation of the seam, has a slit. On the left-hand side of the chest it has a pocket with an inside pouch and flap and on the lateral sides, in the lower section, two pockets with inside pouch, provided with flaps.
4. The trousers do not have cuffs and are provided with two lateral pockets on the seam and one pocket on the right-hand side.
5. The skirt is cut from four gussets and on the front section, on the gusset seam, has a pleat about 35 cm in length measured from the lower end. At the waistline the skirt is sewn to interfacing and on the left-hand side has a zipper.
6. The cap is made out of the same material as the one used for the jacket. The strap of the cap is 4 cm wide and is covered with a dark cherry cloth strip. The crown of the cap is oval-shaped and its diameter is 6 cm larger than that of the strap. The visor is semioval and its width in the middle is 5 cm. Over the visor, along its length, there is a black leather strap with two rings and a stem. On the front section and centrally, on the strap, the badge of civilian fireman, 3.5 cm in diameter, embroidered in yellow, is applied.

* The plate with the uniform, distinctive signs, flag, banner, and badge is reproduced in BULETINUL OFICIAL AL REPUBLICII SOCIALISTE ROMANIA, Part I, No 60, 14 July 1978.

II. Description and Procedure for Granting the Distinctive Signs

1. The distinctive signs of civilian firemen are:

- a. The emblem of civilian fireman and the laces;
- b. The badge of civilian fireman;
- c. The badge for seniority in the civilian fireman unit;
- d. The badge of veteran in the civilian fireman unit.

2. The emblem of civilian firemen is dark cherry colored, out of cloth, 8-cm high and 6-cm wide. In the lower section the emblem is provided with the arms sign of firemen and in the middle bears the inscription "FCP" /the initials for civilian firemen unit/. The emblem is sewn on the right sleeve of the jacket and coat.

On the collar of the jacket and coat the civilian firemen shall wear dark cherry laces, 6 cm in length and 2 cm in width.

3. The badges of functions for civilian firemen are:

a. The unit head wears two braids out of yellow silk, 0.5 cm in width, placed in an angle inside the emblem. He also wears two braids for the laces. Both the emblem and the laces have the edges embroidered with yellow silk;

b. The group leader wears one braid inside the emblem and for the laces -- identical with those of the unit head.

c. The other civilian firemen shall wear the emblem and the laces with black edges and as marks, braids out of yellow silk, 2.5 cm in length and 0.5 cm in width, placed horizontally as follows:

A. Three braids, those with a length of service of more than 15 years;

B. Two braids, those with a length of service of more than 10 years;

C. One braid, those with a length of service of more than 5 years;

D. The civilian firemen with a length of service of up to 5 years shall wear the emblem and laces without braids.

4. The badge of civilian fireman is made out of yellow metal and portrays a hose roll surrounded on the right-hand side with a half of a toothed wheel, and on the left-hand side, with wheat ear, forming a circle with a diameter of 2.5 cm, over which two

water forcing pipes placed crosswise and on the upper part, a five-pointed star are superimposed.

5. The badge for seniority in the civilian firemen unit is oval-shaped with the large diameter of 3 cm and the small diameter of 2 cm. On the upper part of the badge, on a cherry-colored background, a shield is portrayed in black. On the shield there is a torch over which two water forcing pipes are crossed, all in white. The lateral sides of the badge carry two laurel branches linked by a red scarf. The scarf carries the seniority of 10, 15 or 20 years. In the upper part of the emblem there is a red five-pointed star.

The seniority badge is awarded by the executive bureaus of people's councils or, as the case may be, by the leading bodies of the socialist units.

6. The badge of veteran in the civilian firemen unit has the shape of a polygon with five sides, 3 cm in height and 2 cm in width. The background of the emblem is cherry-colored. On the sides there are two laurel branches, and on the lower section, the Romanian tricolor flag. Inside, above the tricolor flag, there is the inscription "Veteran Fireman." Above, there are two small fireman axes, placed crosswise, and in the upper part, a torch.

III. Description of the Flag of the Civilian Firemen Unit, of the Banners of Countrywide or County Foremost Unit. Awarding Procedure

1. The flag of the civilian firemen unit is represented by a rectangular cherry-colored silk strip, 100 cm in length and 70 cm in width, on a 200-cm long pole.

On the borders the flag has yellow silk thread fringes and in each corner, a tassel from the same thread.

On the side from the pole to the right, in the middle, there is the badge of civilian fireman, 30 cm in diameter, embroidered in yellow thread.

On the other side, there is an inscription in yellow thread, on four lines, with letters of 4 cm, the text "Civilian Fireman Unit," followed by the category of the locality (town or commune, as the case may be) in which the unit was organized. Below and centrally, in letters of 6 cm, there is the name of the locality in which the unit was organized and under this name and centrally, in figures of 5 cm, the year when the unit was established.

On the pole, whose tip is ogival, two ribbons are placed, which represent the Romanian tricolor flag, each 100 cm long and 8 cm wide.

The flag shall be awarded to the civilian firemen units of localities which during the last 10 years have obtained good results in the activity of fire prevention and control.

The flag shall be kept at the seat of the unit.

On parades marking the national celebrations of the Firemen's Day in the Socialist Republic of Romania and on the anniversary of the unit, the unit shall carry the flag.

2. The banner of countrywide foremost civilian firemen unit is rectangular with a length of 100 cm and a width of 70 cm. It is made out of cherry-colored silk and has a 200-cm long pole.

On the sides the banner has yellow silk thread fringes and in each exterior corner, a tassel from the same thread.

On the side from the pole to the right, centrally, there is an embroidered arms emblem of firemen, 25X20 cm in size, and above it, on two lines, the text "Ministry of Interior -- Fire Fighters Command."

On the other side there is the text "Foremost Civilian Firemen Unit in the Countrywide Emulation" and in the middle there is the embroidered emblem "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires," 25X20 cm in size.

On the pole two ribbons are placed, representing the Romanian tricolor flag, each 100-cm long and 8-cm wide.

The banner of countrywide foremost unit shall be awarded by the Fire Fighters Command, on the occasion of the day of "13 September" to the unit which took first place on a countrywide scale in the patriotic emulation organized among the units of localities. The banner is transmissible.

The unit that takes first place on a countrywide scale for three times in succession may keep the foremost unit banner for good.

3. The banner of county foremost unit is shaped like a triangle with the base of 40 cm and the height of 60 cm. It is made out of cherry-colored silk.

One side of the flag carries the inscription "Foremost Unit in the Patriotic Emulation," and in the middle there is the embroidered badge of "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires."

The other side carries the name of the county to which the unit involved belongs.

The banner of county foremost unit shall be awarded annually, by the military fire fighter unit of the county or of Bucharest Municipality, to the units of socialist organizations and of localities that obtained the best results in the patriotic emulation. The banner is transmissible. If a unit places first three times in succession it shall keep the flag for good.

IV. Description, Procedure of Awarding the Badge of "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires"

The Badge of "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires" is oval-shaped and 4X2 cm in size. In the upper half of the badge, against a blue background, portrayed in white, are an industrial scene and civilian structures, and in the foreground, a red-colored fire engine. In the lower half, against a green background, there are two crossed orange water forcing pipes. In the upper section there are two firemen axes in orange and a torch in red. On the border of the badge, in a white framing, there is the inscription "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires." On the lateral sides of the framing are two scarves representing the Romanian tricolor flag.

The badge of "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires" shall be awarded by the Command of Military Fire Fighters in Service of fire fighter troops to civilian firemen, members of the technical commissions and civilian firemen units had outstanding inputs into the activity of fire prevention and control or in the completion of their assignments.

The badge is worn on the right-hand side of the jacket's chest.

The proposals for the awarding the badge shall be made by the military fire fighter units.

Appendix No 4

Rewards Which May Be Granted to Civilian Units and Firemen

1. The civilian firemen units of localities which during the last 10 years have obtained good results in the activity of fire prevention and control may receive the unit flag from the executive committees of the people's councils of counties and of Bucharest Municipality.
2. For outstanding results obtained in completing their assignments, the civilian firemen units may receive the following rewards:
 - a. The banner of countrywide foremost unit;
 - b. Countrywide mention by order of the fire fighter commandant;

- c. The badge of "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires;"
 - d. Mention on production branch scale by order of the minister or of the leader of the central body;
 - e. The banner of foremost unit on a county or production branch level;
 - f. Mention on a county level by decision of the executive committee of the county people's council;
 - g. Diplomas, plates, cups, and pennants.
3. The civilian firemen units of the localities which obtained very good results in their activity may receive awards in items, up to the value of 3000 lei annually.
 4. The civilian firemen units of the localities that took the first three places in the countrywide patriotic emulation may receive special cash prizes, as follows:
 - a. First prize -- 7000 lei;
 - b. Second prize -- 5000 lei;
 - c. Third prize -- 3000 lei.

The sums awarded in prizes shall be distributed by the executive committee or the executive bureau of the people's council to the civilian firemen who had the major input into the results obtained.

5. The civilian firemen who distinguish themselves in the completion of the duties assigned to the units may receive the following rewards:
 - a. Mention on a countrywide level by order of the fire fighter commander;
 - b. The badge of "Frontranker in Protection Against Fires;"
 - c. Mention on a production branch level by order of the minister or the leader of the central organ;
 - d. Mention on a county level by decision of the executive committee of the county people's council;
 - e. Verbal or written thanks.
6. The civilian firemen who conduct civic activities in the units of localities may receive awards in cash or items, up to the value of 500 lei annually.

7. The civilian firemen, employed on operative posts specified for fire fighter personnel shall receive awards on the basis of the general awarding norms specified for the work force, taking into consideration the activity of fire prevention and control conducted by them

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